

Two days later, McCarthy informed tribal leaders that a meeting with Secretary Babbitt was scheduled for Jan. 24 in Washington. The meeting was rescheduled, however, to Feb. 8, and by the time McCarthy notified members of that change on Jan. 18, it also had become uncertain that Babbitt himself would attend.

Corcoran got O'Connor involved in the matter at this time to pursue the Secretary's participation in the Feb. 8 meeting, or to assure his attendance at another meeting with the opponent representatives.¹⁴² To that end, on Feb. 7, Corcoran drafted, signed and faxed on O'Connor's behalf¹⁴³ a letter to Collier, explaining a message he left for Collier to call him. The letter opened with a brief description of the Hudson dog track issue, informing Collier that O'Connor & Hannan represented the St. Croix tribe in the matter, and then stated that all Minnesota tribes with casinos opposed this project. The letter then states:

We have been advised that John J. Duffy will meet with our client and the Minnesota casino owners at Cong. Jim Oberstar's office on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 1:30 p.m. to discuss this matter. I would like to talk to you about this meeting and

¹⁴¹(...continued)

mentions that MIGA was seeking a meeting with the Secretary, Ramstad's office heard nothing more about it, and apparently was not invited to attend the Feb. 8 meeting.

¹⁴²O'Connor's daytimer notes from Feb. 6, 1995, when he spoke with Corcoran about the matter, make references to "Babbitt attending" and "future meeting," O'Connor states that he has no recollection of insisting on a meeting with Babbitt, nor does he recall that the objective of his initial involvement in the St. Croix matter was to get a meeting with Babbitt. He maintains that he was happy with the meeting with Collier that he eventually obtained on March 15. *See* Section II.D.3., *infra*.

¹⁴³O'Connor and Corcoran both indicated that Corcoran sent this letter, and other documents like it, over O'Connor's name and with O'Connor's permission, in the Hudson matter.